4-750 (2-7-79)

XXXXXX
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XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

7 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

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☐ For your information: _____

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☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
116-447851-14

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

239

FBI/DOJ

Report Form
FD-263 (5-12-58)

AGENCIES
AND OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OR
DATE 8-12-85 SLL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period
WASHINGTON FIELD	BUREAU	5/17/61	4/24-5/16/61

TITLE OF CASE

WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN
WA-114136, aka Freiherr von Braun,
Wernher Magnus Maximilian Freiherr
von Braun

Report made by [redacted] Typed By: [redacted]

CHARACTER OF CASE

AEA - A

(b)(6)

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADD. DISSEMINATION

REFERENCE

Bureau letter to Birmingham dated 4/18/61.

- P -

Photo
CC TO: Duc
REC'D 3-1-62
MAR 1
ANS.
BY [redacted]

(b)(6)

LEAD

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will report results of outstanding lead at CIA on applicant and brother. (C) U

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP4 Taylor
ON 6-23-82
251,322

Approved	Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below
[redacted]		116-441857-15

Copies made:
(4) - Bureau
1 - Washington Field (116-133470)

NOT RECORDED
3 MAY 18 1961

Classified by 3145 CI/RU
Declassify on: OADR 7/30/85

- A* -
COVER PAGE

Atomic Energy Commission
MAY 29 1961

(b)(6)

[redacted]

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☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1959 O—544750

240

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

Copy to: (b)(6)

Report of: [redacted] Office: Washington, D. C.
Date: 5/17/61

Field Office File No.: 116-133470 Bureau File No.:

Title: WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN - WA-114136

Character: AEA - A

DECLASSIFIED BY Sprinkel
ON 6-23-87
257,322

Synopsis: No personnel file located NASA. No additional pertinent information files of CSC or AEC Security. HCUA negative. Passport issued December, 1956, and October, 1960, [redacted] (b)(3) (b)(6) CIA Acquaintance recommends.

- P -

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

EMPLOYMENT

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

On May 16, 1961, [redacted] Personnel Office, 801 19th Street, N. W., advised SA [redacted] JR., that her files contain no personnel record on the applicant. She stated that this file would be located at his current place of employment. (b)(6)

On May 16, 1961 [redacted] Security Office, NASA, advised SA [redacted] that his files reflect the applicant was granted a "Top Secret" clearance by the Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, based on a background investigation by the Third Army, completed December 29, 1954.

Classified by 1245 GR 100
Declassify on: OADR

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6-23-87 ok per Gov. agency info. unclassified pursuant to E.O. 12356

On June 27, 1960, NASA granted the applicant a "Top Secret" clearance based on the foregoing investigation which clearance he currently holds.

On May 11, 1961, [redacted] Personnel Office, National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council (NAS - NRC), advised SA [redacted] that her records reflect the applicant is not a member of NAS - NRC. (b)(6)

[redacted] Security Office, NAS - NRC, advised SA [redacted] her files contain no record on the applicant.

[redacted]

[redacted] stated that during this period he was certain the applicant was not politically active and that he only did what his position required him to do as part of the government insofar as political matters were concerned. He stated there is no question whatsoever in his mind concerning the applicant's character, associates, reputation or loyalty and that he would recommend him, without hesitation, for a position of trust and confidence.

[redacted] advised SA [redacted] that he had briefly met the applicant whom he described as a great man, however, he did not know him well enough to furnish any additional comments or make any recommendation.

MISCELLANEOUS

The files of the Bureau of Personnel Investigations, Civil Service Commission, as reviewed on May 1, 1961, by IC [redacted] contain no additional pertinent information on the applicant.

(b)(6)

The files of the House Committee on Un-American Activities as checked on May 4, 1961, by IC [redacted] contain no record on the applicant.

On May 2, 1961, [redacted] Security Files, Washington Area Security Operations Office, Germantown, Maryland, advised SA [redacted] that the applicant's security file WA-114136 contains no additional pertinent information.

The files of the Passport Office, Department of State, reviewed on May 11, 1961, by SE [redacted] reflect the applicant was issued Passport Number 261392 on December 7, 1956, for a two-week trip to Puerto Rico and possibly the Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and other Caribbean Islands on official business for the United States Navy in San Juan. He listed his birth date as March 23, 1912, at Wirsitz, Germany.

On August 20, 1959, the above passport was renewed for travel to France, Germany, and England on official business for the Army Ballistic Missile Agency.

On July 20, 1960, the above passport was amended to show the applicant as proceeding abroad on official business for NASA.

On October 17, 1960, the applicant was issued Passport Number 2462083 for travel to Germany, Austria, France, England, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, and Norway for pleasure. The file contained no additional pertinent information.

The files of the Office of Security, Central Intelligence Agency, as caused to be checked on May 9, 1961, by SA [redacted]

(b)(6)
(b)(3)
CIA

UNCLASSIFIED

Report Form
FD-263 (5-12-55.)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF 5-12-61

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period
BIRMINGHAM	BUREAU	5/17/61	5/4-12/61

TITLE OF CASE

WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN - WA-114136, aka Freiherr Von Braun, Wernher Magnus Maximilian Freiherr Von Braun

Report made by: SA [redacted] Typed By: [redacted]

CHARACTER OF CASE

(b)(6)

AEA-A

REFERENCE

Bureau letter to Birmingham dated 4/18/61.

- RUC -

Photos Dec 3-1-62
REC'D MAR 1 9 1962
ANS [redacted]
BY [redacted]

Photo
CC TO: Dec 3-1-62
REQ. REC'D 1966
ANS [redacted]
BY [redacted]

(b)(6)

Photos Army Dec
REQ. REC'D 1-5-62
JAN 2 4 1962
ANS.
BY: [redacted]

6-19 to BF
Rpt 6 5/24/61 [redacted]

Approved [redacted] Special Agent in Charge

Copies made:

(4) - Bureau (AMSD)

1 - Birmingham (116-13038)

Do not write in spaces below

116-44755-1-16

NOT RECORDED
3 MAY 19 1961

[redacted]

6/15/61 NASA [redacted]

2 cc to Atomic Energy Commission
MAY 29 1961

A*

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244

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
AND DESTROY
Brennan 11-7-85

~~SECRET~~ SECRET

Copy to: (1)(6)

FBI/DOJ # 235882
APPEAL #
CIVIL ACT. #
C.O. # 1235
DATE 10/15/85

Report of: SA [redacted] Office: BIRMINGHAM
Date: 5/17/61

Field Office File No.: 116-13038 Bureau File No.:

Title: WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN - WA-114136

Character: ATOMIC ENERGY ACT - APPLICANT

Synopsis: Naturalization records and employment records reflect applicant born 3/23/12, Wirsitz, Germany. Filed petition #7888 for naturalization, USDC, Birmingham, Alabama, 1/18/55. Naturalized Huntsville, Alabama, 4/14/55, issued Certificate of Citizenship #7297683. Employment records MSFC, NASA, Huntsville, reflect applicant employed 9/13/45, Department of Army, as Project Director, Research and Development Division, Ft. Bliss, Texas. In May, 1950, transferred to Guided Missile Development Group, REDSTONE ARSENAL, Huntsville, Alabama. Effective 7/1/52, transferred to Civil Service status. Effective 2/14/56, transferred from Ordnance Missile Laboratory, RSA, to ABMA as Director, Development Operations Division. Effective 7/1/60, named Director, MSFC, NASA. Access to top secret granted 9/19/55, extended by MSFC. Security file, MSFC, reflects applicant was member of Nazi Party in Germany and SS Major in German Army. Never active in either. No adverse information developed by NASA Security Office. Associates, MSFC, comment favorably and recommend. Credit and criminal negative.

RUC

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DECLASSIFIED BY 9145 CJ/RD ON 11/1/85 C-28106

Classified by 9145 CJ/RD
Declassify on: 7/30/85

~~SECRET~~ SECRET

245

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(b)(6)

DETAILS: AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

On May 4, 1961, [redacted] U. S. District Court Clerk's Office, advised that the records of that office reflect WERNHER VON BRAUN, 907 McClung Street, Huntsville, Alabama, filed petition #7888 on January 18, 1955, at Birmingham, Alabama, for the purpose of becoming naturalized. She further advised the records reflect he was naturalized in Huntsville, Alabama, on April 14, 1955, and was issued Certificate of Citizenship No. 7297683.

[redacted] further advised that WERNHER VON BRAUN was born March 23, 1912, in Wirsitz, Ponsen, Germany. His wife, MARIA LOUISE VON BRAUN, was born [redacted] in Berlin, Germany, and they were married February 1, 1947, in Landshut, Germany, and have two children, IRIS CAREEN VON BRAUN, born [redacted] and MARGURITE CECILE VON BRAUN, born [redacted] at Huntsville, Alabama.

The records of U. S. District Court Clerk's Office further reflect that WERNHER VON BRAUN had lawful admission for permanent residence; that he was at El Paso, Texas, on November 2, 1949, and his Citizenship Certificate #7297683 was signed by DAN STRONG, Deputy Clerk, U. S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama.

AT HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA:

[redacted] Personnel Office, GEORGE C. MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER (MSFC), NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA), made available for review applicant's personnel file maintained at the Personnel Office of MSFC. This file reflects that WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN was born March 23, 1912, at Wirsitz, Germany. This file reflects that from May, 1930, to November, 1932, applicant was employed by the Rocket Field Reinickendorf, Berlin, Germany; from November, 1932, to April, 1937, he was employed at the Army Proving Ground, German Ordnance Department, Kummersdarf, Germany; from April, 1937, to May, 1945, by the Army Rocket

SECRET

246

Center, German Army Ordnance Department, as Technical Director, at Peenemuende, Germany; from September, 1945, to May, 1950, employed as Project Director, Research and Development Division, Sub-Office (Rocket), for the U. S. Army, Fort Bliss, Texas. From May, 1950, to February, 1956, he was employed by the U. S. Army as Technical Director at REDSTONE ARSENAL, Huntsville, Alabama, assigned to the Guided Missile Development Group. Effective February 14, 1956, he was transferred from the Ordnance Missile Laboratory, REDSTONE ARSENAL, to the Army Ballistics Missile Agency (ABMA) as Director of Development Operations Division. On July 1, 1960, he was transferred from ABMA, as Director of Development Operations Division, to MSFC as Director of MSFC. He is still employed by NASA as Director of MSFC. This file reflects that as of July 1, 1952, applicant was appointed as an Aeronautical Research, Development and Design Engineer under Civil Service status. All employment prior to that time was under a contract basis.

This file reflects that a background investigation was completed by the U. S. Third Army on December 29, 1954, and that secret clearance was granted on July 11, 1955.

Applicant's personnel file contains no derogatory information but does contain numerous letters of commendation for outstanding performance of duties.

(b)(6)

On May 12, 1961, [redacted] Personnel Security Section, MSFC, advised that a resume of applicant's security file maintained by the Security Section, MSFC, reflects that applicant received his U. S. Citizenship on April 14, 1955. Final clearance (security) was granted by REDSTONE ARSENAL, Intelligence and Security Division, on July 26, 1955, based upon a favorable background investigation completed in December, 1954, by U. S. Army. Access to top secret information was granted on September 19, 1955, and was extended by MSFC on July 1, 1960.

Applicant's security file reflects that he was a member of the SS Horseback Riding School in Germany from 1933 to 1934. He was a D.L.V. pilot in 1933; was a member of the

~~SECRET~~

BH 116-13038

N.S.F. from 1934 to 1935, and member of NSDAP (Nazi Party) from 1939 - 1945. He was an SS Major in the German Army, 1940 to 1945. His service in the SS was not active, but rather an honorary commission. He was arrested in March, 1944, and jailed for two weeks for Anti-Nazi utterances. He was released for lack of proof and necessity of his continuing on the job with B2 Rockets for the German Army.

S-U This file reflects that a security evaluation by the Director of Intelligence, Department of Army, did not consider applicant a war criminal, nor did evidence exist that he was an ardent Nazi. The only derogatory information developed was that he had been a member of the NSDAP and a Major in the SS Group. No evidence of political activity or an active member of the SS was developed. The SS Commission was an honorary commission and accepted upon the advice of his superior. During the investigation of applicant, fifty-eight sources reported favorably and no information was developed reflecting adversely upon applicant's character, integrity, discretion or loyalty.

(b)(6) [redacted] stated he is personally acquainted with applicant and had been employed under applicant for several years. [redacted] commented favorably concerning applicant's character, reputation, associates and loyalty, and stated he considers applicant to be a man of the highest integrity and completely loyal to the United States.

On May 12, 1961, [redacted] advised that he had known and been associated with applicant [redacted] in Germany and the United States. [redacted] stated he considers applicant to be one of the finest men he has ever had the pleasure of being associated with. His comments concerning applicant's character, reputation, associates and loyalty were favorable, and he highly recommended him for a position involving trust and confidence.

~~SECRET~~

(b)(6)

On May 12, 1961, [redacted] MSFC, advised SA [redacted] that he has known and been associated with applicant since [redacted] He stated he worked with him in Germany prior to their entrance to the United States and has been associated with him since they came to the United States from Germany. [redacted] comments concerning applicant's character, reputation, associates and loyalty were favorable and he highly recommended applicant.

On May 12, 1961, [redacted] MSFC, advised that he has been associated with applicant on both a professional and social basis since [redacted] stated that from his association with applicant he considers the United States to be extremely fortunate to have such a man as applicant in their service. His comments concerning applicant's character, reputation, associates and loyalty were favorable, and he highly recommended applicant.

On May 12, 1961, [redacted] MSFC, advised that he has been associated with applicant since [redacted] He stated that in his estimation [redacted] he has found applicant to be the most security minded man that it has been his pleasure to work under. His comments concerning applicant's character, reputation, associates and loyalty were favorable and he highly recommended applicant.

On May 12, 1961, [redacted] advised that the files of that department contain no arrest record for applicant.

On May 12, 1961, [redacted] advised that the files of that office contain no arrest record for applicant or any member of his immediate family.

SECRET

(b)(6)

[redacted]

SECRET

250

Form
(5-12-55)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period
NEW YORK	BUREAU	5/17/61	4/21-5/17/61

TITLE OF CASE

(b)(6)

WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN - WA - 114136, aka Freiherr Von Braun, Wernher Magnus Maximilian Freiherr Von Braun

Report made by [redacted] Typed By: [redacted]

CHARACTER OF CASE

ATOMIC ENERGY ACT - APPLICANT

Synopsis:

REFERENCE

Bureau letter to Birmingham, 4/18/61.

- RUC -

Photo

CC TO: WA
REQ. REC'D 3-4-66
MAR 23 1966
ANS. [redacted]
BY

Photos out 3-1-67
[redacted]

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DATE 2/20/85 BY 9145 CK/RD

Approved [redacted] Special Agent In Charge

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1 - New York (116-121501)

116-447857-17

NOT RECORDED
17 MAY 18 1961

[redacted]

Photo Army Land

ICC-NASA
6/15/61
[redacted]

Atomic Energy Commission* -
MAY 20 1961 COVER PAGE

(b)(6)

BYRD [redacted]

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FI

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: (b)(6)

Report of: [redacted] Office: New York, New York
Date: 5/17/61

Field Office File No.: NY 116-121501 Bureau File No.:

Title: WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN - WA-114136

Character: ATOMIC ENERGY ACT - APPLICANT

Synopsis: Reference recommends.

- RUC -

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DATE 2/30/85 BY 9145 cr/nsr

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NY 116-121501

DETAILS:

(b)(6)

[redacted] advised SA [redacted] that he has been acquainted with the applicant since [redacted]

[redacted] added that in his opinion the applicant is 100% loyal to America and would in no instance violate the security of the United States. [redacted] He concluded by saying that he would recommend the applicant for any position whatsoever involving the security of the United States Government.

253

FD-36 (Rev. 12-13-56)

FBI

Date: 5/19/61

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, ALBANY (116-24800)

RE: WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN -
WA-114136, Aka. Freiherr Von Braun,
Wernher Magnus Maximilian Freiherr
Von Braun
AEA-A

BUDED: 5/18/61

Re Baltimore airtel to Director dated 5/16/61, a copy of which is enclosed herewith for the New York Office.

(b)(6) [redacted]

Also enclosed herewith to aid the New York Office in its investigation is a CIC report reflecting results of an interview with [redacted] which is dated 4/10/53.

New York conduct appropriate investigation.

2 cc destroyed

CC: (3) - Bureau (AM)
2 - New York (Enc. 2) (AM)
2 - Albany (116-24800)

(b)(6) [redacted]
(7)

116-447851-18

NOT RECORDED
9 MAY 22 1961

[redacted]

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/30/85 BY 9745 CTP/RD

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

254

5/23/61

AIRTEL

To: SAC, New York (116-121501)

From: Director, FBI (116-447851) 18

WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN - WA-114136
aka, FREIHERR VON BRAUN, WERNHER MAGNUS
MAXIMILIAN FREIHERR VON BRAUN
AEA-A

Re Albany airtel 5/19/61.

Note correct caption as set out above.

Surep by return mail.

1 cc - Albany (Info)

(b)(6)

[redacted]

(5)

MAILED 9
MAY 23 1961
COMM-FBI

[redacted]-4651

Tolson
Parsons
Mohr
Belmont
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Tavel
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/20/85 BY 9145 cr/ew

WVC gm

[redacted]

255

FD-36 (Rev. 12-13-56)

FBI

Date: 5/22/61

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code)

Via AIR TEL _____ (Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (RUC)

FROM: SAC, PITTSBURGH (116-36498)

SUBJECT: WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN
WA-114136, aka.,
AEAA

Re Baltimore airtel to Bureau, 5/16/61.

(D)(6)

[redacted] divorced wife of [redacted] advised on 5/22/61, that [redacted] last known to reside in Carmel, Calif., address unknown. [redacted] sister, [redacted] should know address of [redacted]

Baltimore contact [redacted] obtain address of [redacted] and set out lead for interview.

RUC

2 cc destroyed

(3) - Bureau
2 - Baltimore (116-51857)
1 - Pittsburgh

airtel to Bu 5/24

[redacted]
(6)

(19)

116-44785-1 19
NOT RECORDED
15 MAY 23 1961

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/30/86 BY 9145 CI/RS

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

256

5/24/61

AIRTEL

To: SAC, Baltimore (116-51857)

From: Director, FBI (116-447851) 19

WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN, aka
WA-114136
AEA-A

Re Pittsburgh airtel 5/22/61.

Handle interview immediately and set out appropriate lead with instruction to surep to reach Bureau by 6/1/61, without fail.

(b)(6)

[redacted]

(4) [redacted] 4651

Tolson
Parsons
Rosen
Tavel
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

MAILED 9
MAY 24 1961
COMM-FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/3/85 BY 9145 CTA/RD

257

[redacted]

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Evans

DATE: 4/19/61

FROM : Mr. Cleveland

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Jones
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C.Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

SUBJECT: WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN
WA-114136
ATOMIC ENERGY ACT - APPLICANT
(b)(6) [redacted]

This is to advise the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) requested a background investigation of Doctor von Braun, who is Director of the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, National Aeronautics and the Space Administration, Huntsville, Alabama.

Doctor von Braun is one of the German scientists and missile experts brought to this country under the protective custody and control of the Joint Intelligence Objective Agency in 1945.

Bureau files reflect that a background investigation was conducted in 1948 at the request of Mr. Peyton Ford, then Assistant to the Attorney General, with emphasis on the security aspects of the immigration of Dr. von Braun into the United States for permanent residence. That investigation was favorable. Copies of reports in this investigation will be furnished to AEC.

An investigation is being ordered to the field in this case with instructions to bring the previous investigation up to date. The field is also being instructed that this case should be assigned to experienced agents and that it will not be necessary to conduct a neighborhood investigation.

ACTION:

You will be advised of any unusual developments.

(b)(6) [redacted]

116-447851-20

NOT RECORDED
17 JUL 6 1961

(7) [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/30/85 BY 9145 CTP/RW

258

NINE

Report Form
FD-263 (5-12-55)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period
ALBANY	BUREAU	5/22/61	5/19/61

(b)(6)

TITLE OF CASE

WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN - WA-114136, Aka., Freiherr Von Braun, Wernher Magnus Maximilian Freiherr Von Braun

Report made by [redacted] Typed By: [redacted]

CHARACTER OF CASE

AEA-A

Photo Qui 3-1-62

REFERENCES: Baltimore airtel to Bureau 5/16/61, and Albany airtel to Bureau 5/19/61.

- RUC -

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADD. DISSEMINATION.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

(b)(6)

[redacted]

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Approved [redacted] Special Agent In Charge

Copies made:

4 - Bureau
1 - Albany (116-24800)

Do not write in spaces below

116-44785-21

NOT RECORDED
17 MAY 24 1961

CC TO Army Qui photo
REQ. RECD 01-5-62
JAN 12 1962
ANS.
BY: [redacted]

ICC to WHSA 6/15/61 [redacted]

Atomic Energy Commission A*
COVER PAGE
MAY 29 1961

259

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FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: (b)(6)

Report of: SA [redacted] Office: ALBANY, NEW YORK
Date: May 22, 1960

Field Office File No.: 116-24800 Bureau File No.:

Title: WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN -
WA - 114136

Character: ATOMIC ENERGY ACT - APPLICANT

Synopsis: [redacted] worked closely with applicant from [redacted] at the Army Ordnance Guided Missile Center, Fort Bliss, Texas. Applicant highly thought of in his field and is of good character and reputation and believes in the American way of life. [redacted] states he does not know if applicant was a Nazi sympathizer but said many of the German engineers joined the Nazi Party because they had no alternative if they wanted to provide for their families and continue with their work. [redacted] would recommend applicant even though he feels the United States should be cautious and constantly aware of the German scientists' actions.

- RUC

(b)(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7/30/98 BY 9145 CAW

DETAILS

[redacted] advised that he worked closely with the applicant from [redacted] at the Army Ordnance Guided Missile Center at Fort Bliss, Texas. [redacted] He advised that the project was moved from Fort Bliss to Huntsville, Alabama in April, 1950 [redacted] He advised that the applicant became the technical director of the Army Ordnance Guided Missile Center at Huntsville, subsequent to the project's moving from Fort Bliss, Texas.

21

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(b)(6)

[redacted] the applicant is highly thought of in his field, is an individual of good character and reputation and one who believes in the American way of life.

[redacted] the applicant received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Institute of Technology in Berlin, Germany in 1932, and that during a period in 1931, the applicant attended the Technical Institute in Switzerland. [redacted] the applicant received his degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Physics from the University of Berlin in 1934. [redacted] during the time applicant was studying at the Institute of Technology in 1931, the applicant assisted Professor OBERTH in writing a book concerning the possibilities of constructing liquid-fired rockets. He said applicant shortly thereafter founded his own private rocket development business in Berlin and that among his experiments was a 25 pound rocket fired by gasoline and liquid oxygen. [redacted] in 1932, the applicant was connected with the German Army, his duties having been concerned with basic missile research and weather data experimentation. He said the German Government financed the applicant's building of test stands and facilities for experimentation in Darmstadt, Germany. [redacted] said that in 1939, applicant became a technical advisor at Peenemunde Proving Ground located on the Baltic Sea, adding that the Commanding Officer at Peenemunde was [redacted]

[redacted] the applicant continued his guided missile work throughout the war and met with ADOLPH HITLER on several occasions, being decorated by HITLER twice. He said one of applicant's decorations consisted of the Iron Cross. He said he had seen pictures of the applicant receiving this Iron Cross decoration from HITLER.

[redacted] toward the end of the war the applicant learned that HITLER had instructed the SS Troops to gas all the technical men concerned with the rocket development. He said upon hearing this the applicant commandeered a train and along with other technical men fled to some location in the mountains located in South Germany. He said the applicant, along with many others, chose to leave this location in the mountains and flee to the American lines.

[redacted] the applicant, like many other German engineers, was an opportunist. He said the applicant has stated that he was not interested in politics but was an engineer, and

(b)(6)

that this was his life. [redacted] he did not know if the applicant was a Nazi sympathizer or not but stated that in his associations with many German scientists while at Fort Bliss, Texas, he learned that many of these German scientists and engineers had joined the Nazi Party because they had had no alternative if they desired to provide for their families and continue on with their work.

[redacted] the applicant was hypercritical of the slowness of the United States development of guided missiles. He said the applicant was disturbed because they were never able to get sufficient funds to go on with this program as well as the fact that when it came to working on airborne vehicles they were unable to get skilled people in the Fort Bliss area. [redacted] under the circumstances they merely did the best they could.

[redacted] he would recommend the applicant for a position of trust with the Government. He advised that even though he would recommend applicant, he feels that the United States should be cautious and constantly aware of the German scientists' actions. He advised that he [redacted] as an American, would always be an American, and native-born Germans would also always be Germans.

Report Form
FD-263 (5-12-55)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period
BIRMINGHAM	BUREAU	5/24/61	5/23/61

TITLE OF CASE

(b)(6)

WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN - WA - 11/136
aka. Frieherr Von Braun, Wernher Magnus Maximilian Freihera Von Braun

Report made by [redacted] Typed By: [redacted]

CHARACTER OF CASE

AEA A

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADD. DISSEMINATION.

REFERENCE: Baltimore airtel to Bureau, 5/16/61.
Report of SA [redacted] 5/17/61, Birmingham.

- ROC -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7/28/82 BY SP4 KSR/RD

(b)(6)

ADMINISTRATIVE

[redacted]

Approved	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below
Copies made:		116-47151-22

4 - Bureau - AMSD - Registered

1 - Birmingham (116-13038)

NOT RECORDED
16 MAY 25 1961

Photo Dup 3-1-62

Army-Ord

Referred to Atomic Energy Commission MAY 29 1961

[redacted]

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263

(b)(6)

ADMINISTRATIVE Cont'd

[redacted]

No leads are being set out to locate and interview [redacted] will not be interviewed UACB.

B*

COVER PAGE

264

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: (b)(6)

Report of: SA [redacted] Office: Birmingham
Date: 5/24/61

Field Office File No.: 116-13038 Bureau File No.:

Title: WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN

Character: ATOMIC ENERGY ACT - APPLICANT

Synopsis: Former associates of applicant in Germany prior to his entry into the United States, advised applicant was member of NSDAP in Germany through necessity, was never active in Party; was also officer in SS, but more in nature of honorary commission; was never active in either SS or NSDAP. All commented favorably concerning applicant and highly recommended him.

- RUC -

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22

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265

DETAILS: At Huntsville, Alabama

The following investigation was conducted on May 23, 1961, by SA [redacted] (b)(6)

[redacted] George C. Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), advised he has known and been acquainted with applicant since approximately [redacted] when applicant was in charge of the V-2 Rocket Center in Peenemuende, Germany. He stated he worked for applicant at the Peenemuende Center. He said that during the time they were together in Germany, applicant was, in all probability, a member of the German National Socialist Workers Party (NSDAP)(Nazi Party), but he was never active in the Nazi Party and his membership was through necessity rather than by choice. He was also a member of the Schutzstaffel (SS) and held a commission in the SS. [redacted] advised applicant was not active in the SS and his commission was more of an honorary commission than an actual commission.

[redacted] stated applicant's primary interest was in the field of scientific work and because of his position as a leader in rocket research, the Nazi Party and SS more or less left him alone; however, at one time applicant was arrested by the Gestapo and held for several weeks, but was subsequently released.

[redacted] advised he considered applicant to be completely loyal to the United States Government and a man whose character, reputation and associates were above reproach. He stated he highly recommended him for a position involving trust and confidence.

[redacted] MSFC, NASA, advised he has known and been associated with applicant since [redacted] He stated he worked under applicant's supervision at the V-2 Rocket Center, Peenemuende, Germany. He said that although applicant was probably a member of the Nazi Party in Germany and also held a commission in the SS, he was never active in either. He advised he never knew applicant to make any political speeches

or to engage in politics in any way. He stated applicant was a devoted scientist and his membership in the Party (Nazi) was merely so he could continue his scientific work at the V-2 Center.

(b)(6)

[redacted] said applicant, in fact, was the driving force in moving the group of scientists from the Peenemuende Center to the West, rather than to the Eastern Zone of Germany immediately after World War II. He stated applicant realized the effects of working for the Russian Government and was extremely instrumental in causing the group of scientists who came to the West rather than remain in Peenemuende and be taken over by the Russians, to do so.

[redacted] commented favorably concerning applicant's character, reputation, associates and loyalty to the United States Government, and stated he would highly recommend him for a position of trust and confidence.

[redacted] MSFC, NASA, advised he has known and been associated with applicant since [redacted] at which time he went to work under applicant's supervision at the Rocket Center, Peenemuende, Germany. He stated applicant was a member of the Nazi Party in Germany and was also an officer in the SS; however, he was never active in either. He said although applicant was the Director of the Rocket Center, he never encouraged the employees to attend Party meetings and never issued any memorandums or orders suggesting any of the employees attend Party meetings. He said applicant appeared to be completely divorced from all political activities and was only interested in his scientific work. He advised he only saw applicant in uniform on one occasion and that was on a special day when everyone had to appear in uniform if they were a member of the SS.

[redacted] applicant was extremely instrumental in steering a number of the employees of the Peenemuende Rocket Center to the Western Zone at the end of World War II, rather than allowing them to remain at the Rocket Center and be absorbed into the Russian Zone. He stated applicant realized what would happen to them if they remained in Peenemuende and their only opportunity would be to move into the Western Zone. As a result, a number of the

scientists from the Peenemuende Center moved into the Western Zone and were subsequently brought to the United States.

(b)(6)

[redacted] stated he has associated with applicant since he has been in the United States and considers him to be a man of the highest type. His comments concerning applicant's character, reputation, associates and loyalty were entirely favorable and he highly recommended him for a position of trust and confidence.

[redacted] MSFC, NASA, advised he has known and associated with applicant both in Germany and the United States since [redacted] He stated he worked under applicant at the V-2 Rocket Center, Peenemuende, Germany, during World War II, at which time applicant was chief of the rocket center. He said that although applicant was a member of the Nazi Party and also an officer in the SS, applicant was active in neither. He advised that to his knowledge he never saw applicant in his SS uniform. He stated applicant never engaged in political speeches for the Nazi Party and had no interest in Party work. He said applicant was strictly a scientist and devoted his entire thinking to science rather than to any activity in the Nazi Party.

[redacted] commented favorably concerning applicant's character, reputation, associates and loyalty to the United States and highly recommended him for a position involving trust and confidence.

268

Report Form
FD-263 (5-12-55)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period
NEW YORK	BUREAU	5/24/61	5/22-24/61

TITLE OF CASE	Report made by	Typed By:
WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN - WA - 114136 aka Freiherr Von Braun, Wernher Magnus Maximilian Freiherr Von Braun	[redacted]	[redacted]

CHARACTER OF CASE

AEAA

(b)(6)

REFERENCE:

Albany airtel to Director, 5/19/61.

- RUC -

Photo out 2-1-62 [redacted]

CC TO: [redacted] REQ. REC'D. MAR 2 1962 ANS. BY: [redacted]

(b)(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 8/1/86 BY 9145 RIV

Approved [redacted] Special Agent in Charge

Do not write in spaces below

Copies made: 6

4-Bureau (116-447851)
1-New York (116-121501)

116-447851-23

NOT RECORDED
5 MAY 25 1961

[redacted] Photo Army Avue

REQ. REC'D 1-5-62 JAN [illegible] ANS. [redacted]

Contd
Atomic Energy Commission
MAY 29 1961

269

Rec'd NASA 6/15/61 [redacted]

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FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: (b)(6)

Report of: [redacted] Office: New York, New York
Date: 5/24/61

Field Office File No.: 116-121501 Bureau File No.: 116-447851

Title: WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN -
WA - 114136

Character: ATOMIC ENERGY ACT - APPLICANT

Synopsis: [redacted] recommends applicant. States he is aware that applicant was a member of the Nazi Party and an officer in the SS in Germany. States he would be cautious of the applicant if sometime in the future the US again became involved in a conflict with Germany.

- RUC -

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270

23

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DETAILS:

MISCELLANEOUS

(b)(6)

On May 23, 1961, [redacted] advised as follows:

[redacted]

[redacted] VON BRAUN was very cooperative with his group and they were successful in getting the scientists and their families away from the Russians.

[redacted]

271

(b)(6)

[redacted]

VON BRAUN was an officer in the German SS troops. While VON BRAUN was technical director of the German guided missile program, he had received several invitations to become an SS officer. He declined the offer, but was advised eventually [redacted] that it would be wise for him to join the SS, which VON BRAUN did. VON BRAUN related this to him at one time [redacted] who now lives in the United States, confirmed this. Because of VON BRAUN's high position in [redacted] Germany at the time, it was expected of him to join the SS. It is his estimation that VON BRAUN was a member of the SS for about 18 months to two years. He does not believe that VON BRAUN was active or had any interest in the SS. [redacted] did he see VON BRAUN in the uniform of an SS officer [redacted]

Concerning VON BRAUN's membership in the Nazi Party, he is aware that VON BRAUN was a member of this Party and he assumes that he was a member for a long time. All individuals who were in a position of responsibility in Germany, with very few exceptions, were expected to be members of the Nazi Party. Membership in this Party, as well as membership in the SS, was necessary to further their professional careers..

272

VON BRAUN has never indicated that he is interested in political matters and he does not believe that VON BRAUN was concerned with political philosophy. His main interest in life has always been his work in guided missiles and any political activity he may have engaged in was a means to an end to provide him with the necessary freedom to conduct his experiments.

He believes VON BRAUN mentioned at one time that the SS had put him in jail for a short time because he had expressed the view that he was interested in rockets only for space purposes and not for military use.

VON BRAUN is truly grateful for the opportunities this country has given him to continue his professional interests and VON BRAUN feels that he has been exceedingly well treated in the United States. VON BRAUN returned to Germany in 1947 to get married, returned to this country, and is now naturalized.

He considers VON BRAUN to be a person of excellent moral character and habits and a good family man. VON BRAUN is a loyal American and he recommends VON BRAUN for a position of responsibility associated with the Government. His only concern about VON BRAUN is that if sometime in the future a powerful and militant Germany should again come in conflict with the United States, he does not know to what side VON BRAUN would throw his allegiance. He said VON BRAUN is a German and will always remain so. This opinion concerning VON BRAUN is true of any German. In view of the current international situation, he has no reason to question VON BRAUN. He is certain VON BRAUN has no interests in Communism and would never do business with the Russians.

(b)(6)

[redacted]

VON BRAUN's associates in this country are mainly Army officials.

VON BRAUN was formerly called Professor VON BRAUN; however, this is not a recognized title and only one bestowed upon him by ADOLF HITLER.

5/25/61

PLAIN TEXT

AIRTEL REGISTERED AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (lead)

FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (116-51857)

SUBJECT: WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN, Aka. - WA-114136
AEA-A

Re BUlet to Birmingham, 4/18/61 (cc San Francisco).

Bureau has advised results to reach Bureau by 6/1/61 without fail.

Enclosed for San Francisco are copies of Baltimore airtel to Bureau, 5/16/61; Pittsburgh airtel to Bureau, 5/22/61 and G-2 Agent Report, dated 4/21/53 regarding interview with [redacted]

(b)(6)

On 5/24/61 [redacted] advised that [redacted] can be reached care of [redacted]

San Francisco handle.

2 - San Francisco (Encs.3)(REGISTERED AM)
2 - Bureau (116-447851)(REGISTERED MAIL)
1 - Baltimore
[redacted] JUSTICE
(4) [redacted] FBI

(b)(6)

116-447851-24

NOT RECORDED
13 MAY 26 1961

[redacted] AVIATION

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DATE 8/1/86 BY 9146 CTR/LP

275 MAY

4-41 (Rev. 2-13-61)

Tolson
Parsons
Mohr
Belmont
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Tavel
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

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D

☒ Radio ☐ Teletype

URGENT 5-25-61

TO DIRECTOR

FROM SAC BIRMINGHAM 251440

(b)(6)

WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN - WA - 114136, AKA. AEAA. REPORT OF SA [redacted] DATED MAY 24, 1961, AT BIRMINGHAM, SUBMITTED AMSD REGISTERED ON MAY 24, LAST. DATE OF INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD ON COVER PAGE SHOULD BE MAY 23, 1961. PLEASE CHANGE.

RECEIVED: 12:32 PM RADIO

12:49 PM CODING UNIT BMQ

116-447851-25

NOT RECORDED
11 JUN 27 1961

[redacted]

1C c destroyed

CODING UNIT

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DATE 8/1/85 BY 9146 cj/pw

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

276

FD-36 (Rev. 12-13-56)

F B I

Date: 5/27/61

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (116-447851)

FROM : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (116-53653)

SUBJECT: WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN,
aka - WA - 114136
AEAA

(b)(6)

Re Baltimore airtel to San Francisco 5/25/61 requesting interview of [redacted] was interviewed and results submitted in report of SA [redacted] dated 5/11/61 at San Francisco.

2cc destroyed

116-447851-26

NOT RECORDED
17 MAY 29 1961

RUC
(3) - Bureau (AM)
1 - San Francisco
[redacted] #7
(4)

(b)(6)

[redacted] L INFORMATION CONTAINED
EREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/1/85 BY 9146 CT/RW

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

277

FD-36 (Rev. 12-13-56)

FBI

Date: 5/31/61

CONFIDENTIAL

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL (Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, WFO (116-133470)

WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN, aka
AEA - A
Buded 5/18/61

(b)(6)

Re report of SA [redacted] dated 5/17/61, at Wash., D. C., and BA airtel dated 5/16/61.

On 5/29/61, IC [redacted] was advised by [redacted] National Agencies Liaison Branch, Assistant Chief Staff Intelligence, Dept. of the Army, Pentagon, that file #50005699 on applicant was destroyed 3/29/57. No additional pertinent information contained in her files. CIA on brother still outstanding. WFO will only report results of CIA check on applicant and brother. Above information re applicant's G-2 file not being included in report form, UACB.

Proceeding

3 - Bureau
1 - WFO
[redacted]
(4)

(b)(6)

AIRTEL

116-447851-27

NOT RECORDED
11 JUN 27 1961

Classified by 9145 SI/RW
Declassify on: OADR 8/7/85

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278

CONFIDENTIAL

Report Form
FD-263 (5-12-55)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF 6-20-61
DATE 6-12-61 JW

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SECRET

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period
WASHINGTON FIELD	BUREAU	6/9/61	5/23-6/6/61

Report made by [redacted] (b)(6) Typed By [redacted]

TITLE OF CASE

WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN - WA-114136, aka Freiherr Von Braun, Wernher Magnus Maximilian Freiherr Von Braun

CHARACTER OF CASE

[redacted] (b)(3) per CIA - A

Photo Div. REQ. IN 3-1-62 INS. BY: [redacted]

FOI/PA # 256063
APPEAL #
CIVIL ACT. #
E.O. # 10501
DATE 8/1/86 INITIALS KW

REFERENCE

Pending report of SA [redacted] (b)(6) dated 5/17/61, at Washington, D. C.

- RUC -

DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted]
ON 6-23-87
#257,322

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

This report is being classified "Secret" inasmuch as the information obtained from the files of [redacted] (CIA) is also marked secret. [redacted] (b)(3) per CIA

CC TO: [redacted] Clerk
REQ. REC'D. 3-4-64
[redacted] (b)(6)

INFORMANT

Identity of Source

[redacted] (b)(3) per CIA

files of the Office of Security, CIA, as furnished to [redacted] (b)(6)

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Approved [redacted] Special Agent In Charge

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4-Bureau
1-Washington Field (116-133470)

1 cc to NPIC 6/15/61 [redacted]

Classified by 9145 cr/rd
Declassify on: OADR 8/1/85

[redacted] (b)(6)

2 cc to Atomic Energy Commission

JUN 12 1961

NOT RECORDED (b)(3) per CIA
11 JUN 27 1961

9 [redacted]

Photo Army Q.M.C. REQ. 1-17-62 ANS. BY: [redacted] (b)(6)

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52 JUL 11 1961

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279

WFO 116-133470

SECRET

Identity of Source

(b)(3) CIA [redacted] continued)

(b)(6) SA [redacted]
On 6/6/61, by [redacted]
Contact Officer,
Office of Security, CIA (S) U

Careful consideration has been given to the source concealed and a T symbol was utilized in the report only in that instance where the identity of the source must be concealed.

SECRET TENOR

- B* -
COVER PAGE

280

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SECRET

Copy to: (b)(6)

Report of: [redacted] Office: Washington, D. C.
Date: 6/9/61

Field Office File No.: 116-133470 Bureau File No.:

Title: WERNHER MAGNUS MAXIMILIAN VON BRAUN -
WA-114136

DECLASSIFIED BY sp4cmj/ksr
ON 6-23-87

Character: AEA-A

Synopsis: (U) [No additional information in the files of CIA on applicant.] Information contained in files of [redacted] (b)(3) CIA set forth in details.

- RUC -

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

MISCELLANEOUS

(b)(3) CIA

The files of the Office of Security, Central Intelligence Agency, as caused to be checked on May 23, 1961, by SA (b)(6) [redacted] contained no additional information on the applicant. (U)

The files of [redacted] another Government agency [redacted] contained the following pertinent information on one SIGISMUND (FREIHERR) VON BRAUN who appears to be identical with the applicant's brother: [redacted] (U) (b)(3)-CIA

"1. A report dated 6 January 1945 [redacted] indicated that one Baron Siegesmund Von BRAUN, believed to be identifiable with Subject, was German Secretary of the Legation to the Holy See. According to the report, he was a diplomat of the old school and not likely to have engaged in SD (German Security Police) activities. However, other sources had [redacted] (U)

(b)(3) CIA

Classified by 3 4 5 2 (b) (1)
Declassify on: OADR 8/7/85

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SECRET 281

SECRET

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Withdrawn by the Navy pursuant to NARS Guidelines 1-22-96 Out 6-2002

WFO 116-133470

SECRET

(b)(3) CIA

suggested that von BRAUN, or someone else having a similar name, had been actively connected with German intelligence activities in Rome, Italy. [redacted] u

"2. The report continued as follows: 'Von BRAUN was a frequent visitor at the Japanese Embassy. During the fall of 1943, there were indications that WEISZAECKER (German Ambassador to the Holy See) was attempting to form a Vatican information service under the direction of von BRAUN and that von BRAUN may have been involved in certain fifth column activities in Rome. It is possible that both WEISZAECKER and von KESSEL (German First Secretary to the Holy See), or at least von KESSEL, regarded von BRAUN as a member of the SD whose duty it was to check the activities of other members of the Embassy, as well as on the other German services in Rome. It may be that von BRAUN did carry out such activities at some other point in his career when he was serving in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).' [redacted] u

"3. This office wishes to note that, according to the above report, General WEISZAECKER and Colonel von KESSEL were, at the time of the report, actively engaged in attempting to make an arrangement with the Allies under which Generals GUDERIAN and von RUNDSTEDT might have surrendered their armies to the Allies, or that assistance might have been given to the German Army by the Allies to help the German Army liquidate the Nazis in Italy. As such, WEISZAECKER and von KESSEL were acting at this time as strong anti-Nazis.' [redacted] u

(b)(3) CIA

SECRET

282

SECRET

"Cross"

references

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 6, 1960

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Malone
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Friend:

You and your lady are cordially invited to a special Congressional preview of I AIM AT THE STARS to be shown at 5:30 p. m., Tuesday, June 21, in the New Senate Office Building auditorium.

We are privileged to co-host this movie produced by Columbia Pictures Corporation with Army cooperation. It is based on the life and achievements of Dr. Wernher von Braun who led the development of America's first successful space satellite at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama.

Our guest of honor will be Dr. von Braun and Victoria Shaw, the beautiful actress who portrays his wife in this motion picture. We hope you may be able to attend this showing.

REC- 53 62-24211-15

15 JUN 17 1960

EX 109

Cordially,

Lister Hill

Lister Hill

John Sparkman

John Sparkman

Senator

Ala. D.C.

R.S.V.P.

(b)(6)

284

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : W. C. Sullivan CONFIDENTIAL DATE: September 14, 1961

FROM : R. O. L'Allier

SUBJECT: ALLEGED TECHNICAL SABOTAGE OF U.S. SPACE PROGRAM

Attached is a letter from Mr. S. Wesley Reynolds, Director of Security, National Security Agency (NSA), Fort Meade, Maryland, containing charges leveled against the administration of U.S. space programs by

In effect, alleges that officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) have been involved in decisions concerning our space effort which are so erroneous, in eyes, as to indicate subversion and possible sabotage. says most of the responsibility for this obstructionism with Dr. Wernher von Braun and other first-generation German rocket scientists at Huntsville, Alabama. claims they are jealously guarding their perogatives to the extent of rejecting worthwhile ideas developed by American companies. U

told NSA representatives that and has also told the whole story to his Congressman, James Roosevelt (Democrat-California). Roosevelt indicated an interest in bringing this matter up on the floor of the House of Representatives to ask for a full investigation. U

In line with Mr. Belmont's instructions to disseminate this material to NASA, contact was made with the Security Office at NSA relative to the requests for confidentiality on the part of the source. NSA investigator Jeremy Lynch who interviewed stated that definitely did not want identity made known to NASA at this time. Accordingly, an appropriate dissemination memorandum has been prepared attributing the data to a confidential source concerning whom the Bureau has no information relative to reliability or motivations. U

Classified by
Declassify on: OADR

Enclosure

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Haynes
1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Emond

62-104763-118

REC-29

SEP 18 1961

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ENCLOSURE

55 SEP 25 1961

CONFIDENTIAL

285

Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan
RE: ALLEGED TECHNICAL SABOTAGE OF U.S. SPACE PROGRAM [redacted] CONFIDENTIAL

(b)(3)
(b)(6)
(b)(7)
(D)
per NSA

OBSERVATIONS:

It is the opinion of Dr. Louis Tordella, Deputy Director, and other officials at NSA that [redacted] interest stems from [redacted] desire to sell [redacted] company's equipment to the Government. In any event, there appears to be no information here upon which the FBI could base an inquiry, and NSA has been so advised. [redacted] u

ACTION:

Upon approval of the attached memorandum for dissemination, it is recommended it be made available to appropriate officials at NASA.

WCS
EBB
CAL.

via liaison
9/14/61 PHH

CONFIDENTIAL

286

CONFIDENTIAL

1 - Mr. Belmont 2 - Mr. Trig & 1
1 - Mr. Conrad 1 - Mr. Mallow
1 - Mr. Sullivan 1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Haynes 1 - Mr. Enon

September 14, 1961

BY LIAISON

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR CLASSIFICATION ACTION

ALLEGED TECHNICAL SABOTAGE OF U.S. SPACE PROGRAM [redacted] (U)

An individual who is employed in private industry and engaged in research in the field of rocket propulsion has made information available to an employee of another Governmental agency with the request that it be appropriately channeled to interested authorities. This individual requested that [redacted] identity not be disclosed. No information is available to the FBI relative to the reliability or motivations of this source. [redacted] (U)

According to the source, it is well known throughout the missile industry that Wernher von Braun and other first-generation German rocket scientists at Huntsville, Alabama are not on good terms with their American counterparts. [redacted] had no information that they are "working for the Russians," but it was [redacted] opinion that their stubborn and superior attitude caused them to reject valuable ideas and equipment developed by others. [redacted] alleged that their obstinacy amounted to technical sabotage [redacted] the American missile effort. [redacted] (U)

In order to exemplify [redacted] charges, the source referred to difficulties experienced by two companies in advancing worthwhile projects. [redacted] (U)

ROCKET DYNE CORPORATION, CANOGA PARK, CALIFORNIA [redacted] (U)

According to the source, the U.S. Air Force in the late 1950's had been given an assignment to develop a rocket engine capable of space flight. In an effort to acquire an engine of sufficient thrust, the Air Force allegedly awarded certain research contracts to the Rocket Dyne Corporation. The source alleged that this company was successful between 1956 and 1958 in developing the "XI" rocket engine which had a capability approaching 450,000 pounds of thrust. This engine was allegedly tested very successfully over [redacted] and through 1953 and required only a few refinements for final acceptance. [redacted] (U)

Original and one furnished NASA

NOTE: See cover memorandum L'Allier to Sullivan re same caption and date, prepared

[redacted] (b)(6)

ELETYPE UNIT

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ENCLOSURE

[redacted]

287

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE
Classified by 2nd Lt. [illegible]
Declassify on: OADR
10-16-87

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

(b)(3) (b)(6) (b)(7)(D) POER NSA

(b)(3)
(b)(6)(D)
(b)(7)
per NSA

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLEGED TECHNICAL SABOTAGE OF U.S. SPACE PROGRAM [redacted] U

According to the source, the Air Force budget for the development of this engine was cut off in 1958 when the responsibility for space efforts was given to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). [redacted] U

The source commented that until recently Von Braun and his associates refused to have anything to do with the "X1" rocket engine and desired to go along with the equipment they developed. [redacted] U

CAL-VAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION [redacted] U
WOODLAND HILLS, CALIFORNIA

According to the source, the CAL-VAL company developed a sound suppresser device recently which amounted to a major advance in combating vibrations and heat emanated by a rocket at the time of take-off. Source alleged that CAL-VAL has been hard pressed in arranging for appropriate tests of this sound suppressor by NASA as a result of the obstructionism of Von Braun's group at Huntsville, Alabama. [redacted] U

The source alleged that CAL-VAL was resented in Huntsville and that their arguments concerning the potential value of a sound suppresser were first refused by the Germans who later reluctantly agreed to test the device. It was alleged that although preliminary procedures have been undertaken, it is evident that CAL-VAL is "getting the run around" from Huntsville in spite of the fact that approval of this device was given at NASA headquarters in Washington. [redacted] alleged that in so many words "NASA does not have control over Huntsville." The source stated that the Air Force has now disbursed funds to help CAL-VAL test their sound suppresser. [redacted] U

This memorandum contains neither the conclusions nor recommendations of the FBI and is furnished for whatever action may be deemed appropriate. Neither it nor its contents should be distributed outside your agency; however, until such time as the FBI has had the opportunity to refer any requests to the agency originally developing this data.

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288